

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-16 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 6 and 9 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 8, and 14 are sought to be amended. These changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,533,145 (“Shofner”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,394,591 (“Jornot”). Claim 1 has been amended to include and clarify features that had been enumerated in previously pending claim 9. In particular, the draw frame of claim 1 now includes an electronic control device connected to the electronic image evaluating unit. The draw frame of claim 1 further includes a closed circuit that includes the electronic machine control device and the electronic imaging evaluating unit. Further, the control device of claim 1 utilizes results of the image evaluating unit to control and optimize a drafting process via the closed circuit. The feature of a closed circuit through which the drafting process is

controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation is disclosed in neither Shofner nor Jornot.

Shofner describes an imaging apparatus in conjunction with textile processing, where images are analyzed to find “entities of interest in the web” such as foreign particles (See abstract, Shofner).

There is no disclosure in Shofner of a closed circuit through which the drafting process is controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Jornot discloses an apparatus for sensing various attributes of a sliver. But Jornot does not disclose the use of optical means to do so. Jornot does not disclose the use of a camera and does not disclose a closed circuit through which the drafting process is controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Therefore, neither Jornot nor Shofner disclose the use of a closed circuit through which the drafting process is controlled and optimized on the basis of image evaluation. Because this feature is disclosed in neither Jornot nor Shofner, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by any reasonable combination of these references.

Because the remaining claims all depend from claim 1, these dependent claims necessarily incorporate all features of claim 1. Claim 1 includes a feature that is lacking in any reasonable combination of Shofner and Jornot, and claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 10-16 likewise include this feature. These claims are therefore not rendered obvious by any reasonable combination of Shofner and Jornot.

Other Matters

As described above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of dependent claims 6 and 9 (both now cancelled). Dependent claims 8 and 14 have also been amended to eliminate features that have been added to claim 1.

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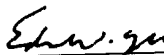
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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